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FLOOR DEBATE

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still, number one, going to be \$50 million short in that out biennium, when this bill would come into play. Not only are you going to be \$50 million short but...but consider this for a moment. The projected revenues for those two out years are 7.2 percent growth in each year of those two out years. Okay, that's the projection that we're using. Now, there are a lot of reasons for that. Consider for the moment that the average growth historically is 5.8 percent, so in calculating that we will be \$50 million short in those two out years, in making that calculation, we are also making the assumption that revenue growth will be 7.2 percent, way above average, in those two out years, in each of those two out years. Now what do you think...think in terms of probabilities? Probabilities are we won't get up to 7.2 percent in both years. If that happens, that means the \$50 million that we're short in those two years will start to multiply itself. How much? I don't know. You don't know. None of us know. But what we do know right now is that we're in big trouble this year; we're in trouble in the next biennium. Even if we do everything that's been recommended to you by the two committees, we still have a problem in the next biennium that we need to think seriously about and that we'll only be bailed out of if revenue growth is tremendously high. So, again, I just want to caution you, as I know the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee would caution you if he were here at the moment, that this is probably not a wise thing to do, to take on additional obligations at a time of such great uncertainty. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I appreciate what everybody is trying to do in the forms of LB 692 and LB 543, trying to find funds to help with this problem. The counties, though, are continuing to pay for what is a state responsibility. This concept has been around for a number of years. This is the third time I've introduced a similar concept. It was introduced before then, like I said earlier, in 1987. Senator Beutler, he talked about we're being in such a hole and, you know, how can we fund this when we are so deep in debt? We didn't fund this when we had money. We had a good ten years in the 1990s, but it is just so much simpler and so much